

## **Ipswich Agricultural Commission**

### **Minutes of Jan. 6, 2016**

**Members attending:** Cathy Chadwick, Jay Stanbury, Ed White, Cole Desmond, Royce Knowlton, and Christine Sandulli (alternate).

**Members absent:** Eric Gallicki, Kelly Jacklin, alternate. Bill Cassidy has resigned.

**Citizen's Queries:** None

**Minutes:** The minutes of the December meeting were not ready for approval. Chadwick said she would have them ready for the February, 2016 meeting.

#### **Meeting calendar for 2016:**

- **Proposed meeting dates and themes:** The committee reviewed the proposed speakers and topics for 2016 meetings.
  - **Legislators:** State Rep. Brad Hill had said he would be willing speak. Chadwick said Hill would ask State Senator Bruce Tarr as well. Dates in April or May were suggested, and selectmen should be invited. Stanbury said the legislators would be asked to address regulatory issues. Knowlton said a meeting had been held in the past at the Fish and Game Club, and an off-site location would allow refreshments and a more informal atmosphere. This was discussed but no action assigned.
  - **Board of Health issues:** Stanbury said he would also like to invite representatives from the Ipswich Board of Health and Brad Mitchell from the state. Sandulli suggested they be scheduled prior to the legislators, so the legislators could address the issues raised. Chadwick suggested the Board of Health be invited to the meeting with legislators.
  - **Animal inspections:** Knowlton suggested inviting the new animal control officer, as procedures for animal inspections appear to have been changed.
  - **Outreach:** Stanbury said he would schedule the outreach meeting for whatever date was not convenient for the legislators. Chadwick suggested including discussion of the 2016 Farmers Market in the outreach meeting.
  - **December meeting.** No agenda was set for the December, 2016 meeting; that date will be left open for whatever issues arise prior to that time.
  - The Commission decided NOT to hold a meeting in August as farmers are extremely busy at this time

#### **Work plan for the year and budget:**

- **Agricultural study:** Chadwick said the Ipswich Agricultural Study had recommendations, some of which had been accomplished.  
**ACTION:** Chadwick and Stanbury will review the study recommendation and present a draft summary of its goals and recommendations.

- Other suggested actions: (some of these will include budget items)
  - Provide information to real estate agents on Right to Farm
  - Signage identifying town as Right to Farm community
  - Develop farmland database linked to GIS mapping, with contact information
  - Develop letter to large landowners asking if they are interested in leasing land for agricultural use
  - Attend regulatory hearings to show support for agricultural projects
  - Market cups, bags, and other items with AG COM logo to sell with proceeds to support Farmers Market

**Other business:**

- Ed White said he had not yet met with the Farm to Table Group.  
**ACTION:** Chadwick will contact Nicole Whitten, ask her to work with White.
- There is money in the budget that needs to be appropriated by June. Stanbury suggested purchasing an ad in Edible Boston magazine.  
**ACTION:** Stanbury will come back with a proposal and ad prices  
Ed White suggested money could be used for a banner over the road promoting the market.

**MOTION:** Chadwick moved to adjourn the meeting. Stanbury seconded.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Christine Sandulli, alternate member and recording secretary.